

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 RSC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-01 OES-03 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00

L-02 OIC-02 AF-04 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4987

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 825

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, FAO, WFC, MX

SUBJECT: UNGA CONSIDERATION OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 261234

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL, EMB ECON COUN AND ECON OFF CALLED NOVEMBER 27 ON LIC. HUGO DIAZ THOME, DIRECTOR GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COORDINATION, FOREIGN OFFICE, TO DISCUSS UNGA CONSIDERATION WFC RESULTS. EMBOFFS DREW ON TALKING POINTS PARA 5 REFTEL AND REFERRED ALSO TO PARTICIPATION OF MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, WHO ADDRESSED WFC SESSION.

2. DIAZ THOME NOTED THAT PROBLEM OF WORLD HUNGER WAS EXTREMELY SERIOUS AND TIMELY ONE, AND THAT THERE WAS URGENT NEED FOR PROGRESS IN SUCH AREAS AS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCE TRANSFER TO INCREASE WORLD FOOD PRODUCTION. HE REFERRED TO MEXICO'S COOPERATION WITH CIMMYT AND NOBEL-LAUREATE DR. BORLAUG'S WORK WITH

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"GREEN REVOLUTION." HE STRESSED NEED FOR INORGANIC AND

ORGANIC FERTILIZERS, THOUGH NOTING THAT FORTUNATELY MEXICO DID NOT SUFFER FROM THESE SHORTAGES. THE DEVELOPING WORLD, INCLUDING MEXICO, DOES NEED TO ENGAGE IN LONG-RANGE PLANNING IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AIMED AT THE CREATION OF MODERN AGRO-INDUSTRIES.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE UNGA VOTE ON THE WFC RESULTS, DIAZ THOME STATED THAT WHILE MEXICO IS AWARE OF THE NEED TO SOLVE THE WORLD HUNGER PROBLEM, THERE MIGHT BE SOME POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES IN APPROVAL OF WFC RESULTS AS A WHOLE. THE MEXICAN VOTE WILL BE THE RESULT OF A HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL DECISION WHICH HAS NOT BEEN MADE. THUS, WHILE HE WAS PERSONALLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE VIEWS WHICH EMBOFFS HAD PRESENTED HE COULD MAKE NO DEFINITIVE REPLY TO OUR REQUEST AT THIS TIME.

4. COMMENT: WE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT DIAZ THOME WAS IN FACT SYMPATHETIC TO US VIEWS ON UNGA VOTE ON WFC, AND WOULD INFORM FONOFF PRINCIPALS OF OUR POSITION. HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT HIGH-LEVEL MEXDEL AT UN (PUSHING ECHEVERRIA CHARTER) MIGHT PROFITABLY BE APPROACHED AS WELL ALONG LINES PARA 5 REFTTEL.
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